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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the protest note of 4 February 2009 transmitted by the Government of the Argentine Republic to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, rejecting the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the so-called and illegitimate "governments" of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the alleged "British Antarctic Territory" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Buenos Aires, 4 February 2009

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and has the honour to inform it that the Argentine authorities have taken note of the issuance of postage stamps marked "Falkland Islands", "South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands" and "British Antarctic Territory".

In that connection, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the British Government to present these territories as having a distinct identity or a status which they do not possess, bearing in mind that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas form an integral part of Argentine national territory and are illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the Argentine Government does not recognize the existence of the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" and reasserts that the Argentine Antarctic Sector forms an integral part of the national territory of the Argentine Republic.

Likewise, the Argentine Government rejects the attempt by the United Kingdom to issue postage stamps on behalf of the alleged and illegal governments of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the so-called "British Antarctic Territory", none of which are recognized by the Argentine Republic.

In addition, the Argentine Government rejects the publicity given to the aforementioned postage stamps by the United Kingdom on the Internet, in that it distorts the geographical, historical and legal reality of the Argentine Republic.

The Malvinas and South Atlantic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.